

Children and Young People Social Care and Services Scrutiny Panel

16th December 2019



Early Help in Middlesbrough

- The Early Help and Prevention Service (Stronger Families) has a remit of working with the whole family. The service offers direct work and evidence based interventions to support children, young people and families.
- The team consists of: Family Case Work /Children's Centres/ NEET /Partnerships / Trauma Informed Practice Team.
- The skilled early help workforce includes a range of specialist staff including Adult Substance Misuse Social Worker, Psychotherapist, Clinical Psychologist, Health Visitors and School Nurses

Managing demand into Children's Social Care

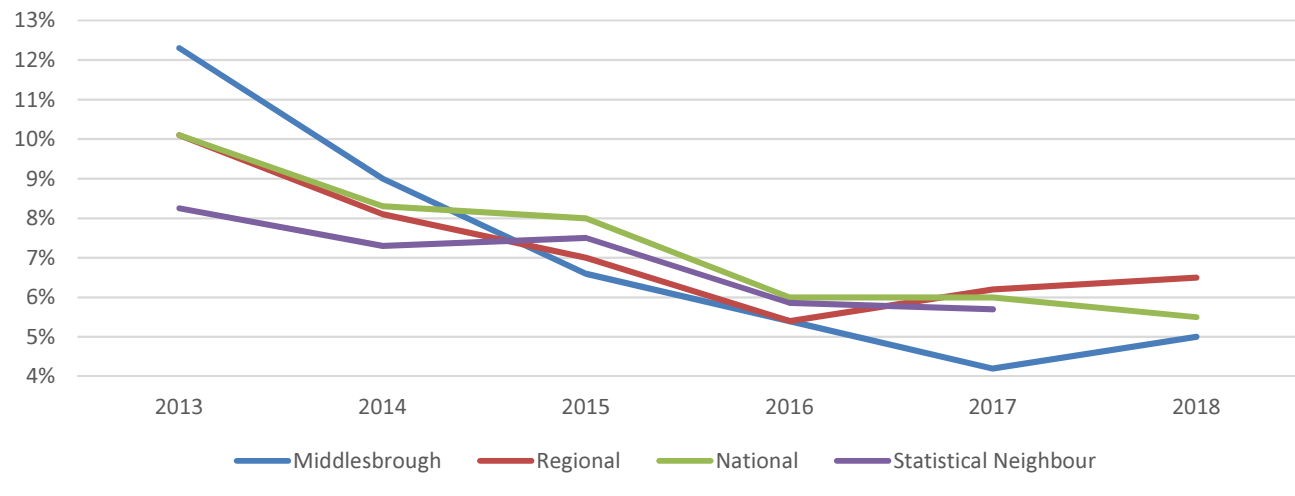
- There has been an increase in referrals to early help. The outcomes for families receiving early help support are good with 77% of internal cases closing with positive outcomes met
- The vast majority of families who receive support from Stronger Families do not re-enter Children's Social Care. We know that 90% of cases have not been re-referred to Children's Social Care following 12 months from the case closure point.



Supporting Vulnerable Adolescents

The rate of young people Not in education Employment or Training in Middlesbrough has seen a year on year reduction and latest data (2018) shows that Middlesbrough's rate is lower (5%) than the regional (6.5%) and national (5.5%) levels (statistical neighbours data is not yet published).

Proportional NEET: 16 & 17 Year Olds



Partnership Approach to early help

- There has been an increase in the number of early help cases led by partners. In October 2019, 523 cases were open to partners including 33 schools and other partners such as health visitors.
- Support to partners who are taking on the Lead Practitioner role is coordinated through the multi agency Early Help Forum.
- In the last 12 month period, 364 partners have been trained in Safeguarding Thresholds and 132 partners have attended training in the My Family Plan (Early Help Assessment).

Coordination of Repeat Missing - CSE/ VEMT

- Dedicated post to coordinate responses to children vulnerable to sexual exploitation or being trafficked for sex, exploited, missing from home / care / education and trafficked.
- Performance on the service response to children who go missing has improved. 94% of RHIs now offered and 974 interviews were undertaken (74.7%).
- The Children Missing from Education Manager chairs regular multi-agency meetings, analyses school data and attends the Vulnerable Persons Group to provide rich data and a link between Children Missing from Education and the information regarding those Missing from Home, Missing from Care and/or those at risk of CSE or being trafficked.



Strategic Partnerships

- South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (STSCP)
- Children's Trust
- Prevention and Partnership Sub Group
- Early Help Forum
- VEMT



Recognition of Best Practise

- Early help family casework is good. Through audit of cases 68% of early help case audits were judged as outstanding or good, 27% requires improvement and 5% Inadequate.
- NEET rate has led to Manchester LA conducting a good practice visit
- Public Health England have identified work in the Children Centres as a national good practice model.



Next Steps

- Embed Trauma Informed Practice within early help to improve outcomes for 'revolving door' children, young people and families to stop referrals to Children's Care.
- To increase the number of Early Help Assessments completed (My Family Plans) by partners and to ensure consistency in the quality of external early help work through regular multi agency early help audit activity.
- To develop a young person's participation group with children and young people who have accessed early help who will tell us how we can improve our services
- Review the step-up/step-down process to ensure effective joint working between early help and children's care through joint handover visits and clear transitions for families.
- To implement learning and improvements from monthly audits and challenge clinics within the early help workforce.
- Integrate Public Health prevention services with Prevention and Partnerships directorate to deliver more streamlined and fully integrated prevention services. Pilot locality working and demand modelling within Newport and North Ormesby targeting early help resources at the wards which create high levels of demand on Children's Care.

